

REMARKS

The Official Action of 8 March 2007 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct clerical errors in the Description of Drawings and in Table 3 on page 18. Specifically, in the Description of Drawings, Figs. 1 and 2 were inadvertently switched with each other in the present US national stage application, as can be seen from the international application PCT/JP2004/014189 (Publication No. WO 2005/030885 A1) and Applicants' priority application (Japanese Application No.: 2003-341633, English translation submitted herewith). One of skill in the art would know this both from the PCT application and because the spectral characteristics (absorption wavelengths) shown in the drawings would match up with the described dyes only if the descriptions were switched. In Table 3 on page 18, the correct dye used in the claimed ink ("C.I. Direct Blue 86") would be clear from the figure descriptions and because the results are those that would be obtained with this dye.

The claims have been amended as courteously suggested by the Examiner at paragraph 2 of the Official Action to remove the bases for the claim objections. The claims have also been amended to remove the bases for the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph appearing at paragraph 4 of the Official Action. The claims have further been amended to limit the claimed aromatic compound to one which has a lithium counter ion so as more clearly to

distinguish over the cited art (see below). All claims as amended are believed to be free of the Examiner's rejections and are otherwise believed to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 7-22 were provisionally rejected for alleged obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 5-19 of copending Application No. 11/042,832. Claims 1-22 were provisionally rejected for alleged obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4, 6-19 and 34-44 of copending Application No. 11/311,869. Applicants submit herewith respective terminal disclaimers (2) to overcome each of these rejections.

Claims 1-15 and 17-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 1088864. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 1088864. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As discussed above, the claims have been amended to distinguish over the cited reference by limiting the claimed aromatic compound to one having a lithium counter ion. In this connection, Applicants have found that, when used in the claimed composition, the recited lithium salt is more effective in improving ozone resistance while maintaining good clogging resistance than, for example, a corresponding sodium salt.

In contrast, EP 1088864's [0044] discloses "the anionic color ink. .

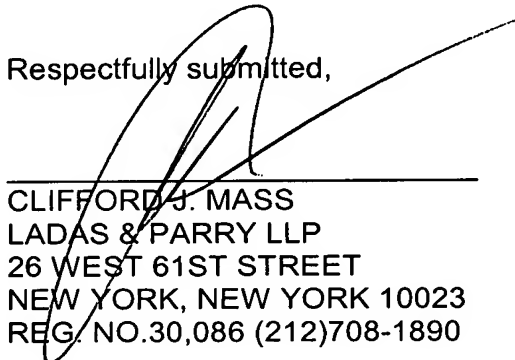
.contains. . .anionic substance. . . One example of anionic substances having a carboxyl group or a sulfonic group . . . is . . .sodium naphthalenesulfonate, sodium naphthalenedisulfonate and sodium naphthalenetrisulfonate. . .”

Likewise, EP 1088864's [0132] discloses cyan ink containing C.I. Direct Blue 199 and disodium 1, 5-naphthalene disulfonate.

Since the cited reference does not show or suggest the lithium salt recited in all of the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not set forth even a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness for the invention as now claimed. Moreover, even assuming for the sake of argument that the reference were competent to set forth a *prima facie* case of alleged obviousness, Applicants have evidence of unexpectedly advantageous results with the claimed lithium salt, as compared with the sodium salt taught by the reference, that would rebut any such alleged *prima facie* case. See Additional Data submitted herewith. Applicants are prepared to submit this data in the form of a declaration, if necessary, to overcome a continued rejection over the cited art.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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